UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

ACC

Administrative Committee on Coordination

ACC/1995/10
27 June 1995

ENGLISH ONLY

REPORT OF THE FIFTH AD HOC INTER-AGENCY MEETING ON THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE FAMILY
(Vienna, 22-23 May 1995)

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OVERVIEW

1. The Fifth Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Meeting on the International Year of the Family made six recommendations to the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) (see sect. II below, recommendations 1-6).

2. The participants reviewed the progress made, and agreed upon specific measures to be taken, regarding the implementation of the two long-term inter-agency projects on (a) support for capacity-building and empowering families; and (b) the manual on provisions relating to the family contained in United Nations instruments and other basic international texts.

3. Having reviewed the observances of the International Day of Families in 1994 and 1995, participants finalized themes for the Day's observances for the years 1996 to 2000.

4. The participants undertook an overall review of their respective entities' activities for the preparation, observance and follow-up of the Year, and made an assessment of the Year's impact from the perspective of the United Nations system as well as collaborating non-governmental organizations. The Meeting also considered the family dimensions of the forthcoming Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace, and the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II).

5. The participants evaluated the work of the ad hoc inter-agency mechanism for the International Year of the Family, and identified modalities for continued coordination of efforts on family issues within the United Nations system.

6. The participants examined the various aspects of the follow-up to the International Year of the Family, and made suggestions for the future course of action. They stressed the need for synthesizing and making available to all concerned the family-specific dimensions of the outcome of the relevant United Nations conferences and national experiences of the International Year of the Family.

I. ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

7. The Fifth Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Meeting on the International Year of the Family was convened at the United Nations Office at Vienna on 22 and 23 May 1995.

8. The Meeting was attended by participants from bodies and specialized agencies of the United Nations system (see annex I to the present report). Also attending as observers were representatives of non-governmental organizations.

9. In his opening statement, the Coordinator for the International Year of the Family expressed his profound gratitude and appreciation to the participating entities of the ad hoc inter-agency mechanism for the Year and their focal points for their distinguished contributions to the success of the Year. He also expressed appreciation for the partnership role of the non-governmental

organizations, including their committees on the family, in particular the NGO Committee on the Family in Vienna. The success of the Year was a result of an effective partnership among more than 157 Member States, 34 entities of the United Nations system, and a large number of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. The Coordinator pointed out that major accomplishments of the Year had included placing the cause of families in the international political agenda; recognition of the role of families as an essential element in the concept of development and as an object and agent of social policy; institution of substantial initiatives for long-term action in support of families; acknowledgement of the importance of supporting families; and recognition of the importance of promoting democratic families in family-friendly societies. He stated that, in retrospect, the role of the United Nations system in achieving these positive outcomes could not be overestimated. Moreover, the Year had led to a refining and reorientation of programmes and approaches among concerned entities from a family perspective. He also noted the substantial contribution of the Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Meetings on the Year to an ongoing process of building a strong partnership among the United Nations, the non-governmental organizations and the private sector. Citing the debate on family issues, as part of the International Year of the Family which had coincided with a major process of rethinking the United Nations role in development, the Coordinator stated that recent or forthcoming major global conferences on the environment, human rights, population and development, social development, women and shelter had provided or would offer valuable support to family issues. He briefed the Meeting on the mandates emanating from General Assembly resolution 47/237 and on the outcome of the thirty-fourth session of the Commission for Social Development and the proposals and plans regarding the follow-up to the Year. He pointed out that whereas there was broad consensus on the importance of effective follow-up, a few Member States were less receptive - even to the concept of a blueprint for action on family issues - owing to a number of factors, such as the sensitive nature of family issues, the fatigue with the complex process of negotiating global documents and the fact that family issues had been covered in newly adopted declarations and plans of action. Therefore, concise specific proposals on the follow-up would be submitted to the General Assembly as part of the report of the Secretary-General on the observance of the Year.

10. The agenda, as adopted by the Meeting, is contained in annex II.

11. The report of the Meeting was adopted on 23 May 1995.

II. MATTERS BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON COORDINATION

12. The Fifth Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Meeting on the International Year of the Family adopted the following six recommendations for approval by ACC:

Recommendation 1

In view of the effective supportive role of the United Nations system in the successful observance of the International Year of the Family, concerned

organizations and agencies should continue to serve as important partners in the global effort to achieve long-term development objectives regarding families in the context of the Year's follow-up. They should contribute to this process by highlighting and providing substantive leadership on family-specific dimensions of their respective mandates. This should be done within the framework of the implementation of international declarations, plans, programmes and platforms for action of the major global conferences of the 1990s as they related to family issues. A focus on family issues should also be adequately reflected in their programmes of work and programme budgets. In order to ensure the effectiveness and monitoring of their relevant activities and to facilitate a coordinated system-wide follow-up to the Year, concerned organizations and agencies should appoint permanent focal points on family issues.

Recommendation 2

(a) It is essential to achieve effective coordination on family issues within the United Nations system, within the context of the implementation of the relevant provisions of international declarations, plans, programmes and platforms for action emanating from the major global conferences of the 1990s. Consequently, and based on the experience of the inter-agency mechanism for the International Year of the Family, ad hoc inter-agency meetings on family issues should be instituted on a biennial basis. To the extent possible, these meetings should be held in conjunction with the sessions of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council or other meetings, so as to minimize travel costs. The meetings should also coordinate the follow-up to the International Year of the Family; facilitate exchange of information and collaboration; harmonize approaches and understanding of relevant concepts; and implement joint projects. The Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat should serve as the substantive secretariat for the meetings.

(b) The first ad hoc inter-agency meeting on family issues should be held in 1996. The following substantive agenda items are proposed for the meeting:

(i) Role of United Nations system organizations and agencies and inter-agency coordination for the follow-up to the International Year of the Family and the implementation of family-related recommendations of the major global conferences of the 1990s;

(ii) Inter-agency projects benefiting families;

(iii) Partnership with non-governmental organizations on family issues.

Recommendation 3

Within the overall objective of fostering a family-centred approach to human development in social and development programmes, work should be continued on the long-term project on support for capacity-building and empowering families, initiated by the Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Meetings on the International Year of the Family. Its implementation should be undertaken by the ad hoc

inter-agency meetings on family issues, under the leadership of the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat.

Recommendation 4

Proceeding from the relevant major global events ahead, the annual observances of the International Day of Families in the years 1996 to 2000 should be held under the following themes: 1996: Families: victims of poverty and homelessness; 1997: Building families on equality and equity; 1998: Family: source of education for human rights; 1999: Families for all ages; 2000: Families: agents of development and social progress. Organizations and agencies of the United Nations system should continue to take effective measures, both at their headquarters and in the field, for the successful annual observances of the International Day of Families, on 15 May.

Recommendation 5

Organizations and agencies of the United Nations system should give adequate attention to family issues in their substantive contributions to the forthcoming Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace, and the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), drawing upon the consensus reached at the International Conference on Population and Development and at the World Summit for Social Development.

Recommendation 6

Drawing on the positive experience of the International Year of the Family, non-governmental organizations and institutions devoted to family issues, family-related research and family policy concerns should be provided with the widest possible opportunities to participate as partners in family-related work of the United Nations system. Concerted efforts should be made to foster collaborative and supportive relationships with them. Non-governmental organizations should be represented at the ad hoc inter-agency meetings on family issues, in an observer capacity, through the Non-Governmental Organizations Committees on the Family in Vienna, New York and Paris.

III. DISCUSSION

A. Review of the implementation of inter-agency projects for the International Year of the Family

13. In considering this item, participants recalled the numerous joint activities initiated and successfully implemented through the inter-agency mechanism and noted that they had had a significant impact on the success of the Year. They reviewed progress made and agreed upon further measures regarding the long-term inter-agency projects on (a) support for capacity-building and

empowering families and (b) the manual on provisions relating to the family contained within United Nations conventions and other instruments.

14. The representative of WHO, who had been providing substantive leadership for the inter-agency project on support for capacity-building and empowering families, briefed the Meeting on steps taken and a possible further course of action. He stressed the value of the project in advancing a human development approach, centred on the family unit, and noted that it required extensive development work. As recommended by the Fourth Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Meeting on the International Year of the Family, the services of a consultant had been obtained to prepare a programme development tool on "support for capacity-building and empowering families". The consultant was currently completing the task, based on his extensive consultations with the various concerned entities of the system. An initial publication of the project, which would also contain information on the partners and resource persons, would be completed soon.

15. Participants welcomed the progress made on the project and agreed that it should be continued, as a specific joint contribution of the United Nations system on family issues and the follow-up to the Year. The project's overall objective would be to foster a family-centred approach to human development in social and development programmes and promote intersectoral cooperation at the field level in this regard. The development of indicators that would measure the need for capacity-building and empowerment as well as monitor and evaluate family-centred interventions for human-centred development was considered essential. Implementation of this long-term project should be one of the responsibilities of the inter-agency mechanism for continued coordination on family issues. WHO and the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat should continue to provide leadership for the project. Advanced communication technologies and informal groups at various headquarters locations should be effectively utilized for its implementation.

16. The Meeting reviewed a draft manual on provisions relating to the family contained within United Nations conventions and other instruments, prepared under the direction of the Centre for Human Rights. The participants reiterated the value of the manual, both as an advocacy instrument and as a critical operational tool for training on family issues and human rights education, particularly at the national and local levels. They also stressed its value in terms of highlighting the family-related dimensions of human rights, which were often considered to concern individuals exclusively. They regarded the draft as constituting excellent work and made the following suggestions for its finalization: (a) limit coverage of documents to international and regional levels and clarify the criteria used for coverage, in accordance with the criteria employed by the Centre for Human Rights, and adjust the title accordingly; and (b) include a chart on the status of ratification of international instruments covered by the manual. The Meeting agreed that the manual should be issued, in English, French and Spanish, as a joint publication of the Centre for Human Rights and the secretariat for the Year.

17. The Meeting reviewed the observances of the International Day of Families in 1994 and 1995, on the basis of a note. As recommended by the Fourth Ad Hoc

Inter-Agency Meeting on the Year, participants considered suggestions for themes for the annual observance of the International Day of Families for the years 1996 to 2000 and finalized the following themes, based on relevant major global events: 1996: Families: victims of poverty and homelessness; 1997: Building families on equality and equity; 1998: Family: source of education for human rights; 1999: families for all ages; 2000: families: agents of development and social progress.

B. Assessment of the International Year of the Family from the perspective of the United Nations system organizations and agencies as well as the collaborating non-governmental organizations

18. In considering this item, the Meeting had before it the following documentation: consolidated submissions on the assessment of the Year by organizations and agencies of the United Nations system and NGO Committees on the Family; a note by the Secretary-General to the Commission for Social Development at its thirty-fourth session on the current status of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 47/237 on the International Year of the Family (E/CN.5/1995/5) and family-related excerpts from the report of the Secretary-General to the Commission at its thirty-fourth session (under the item monitoring of international plans and programmes of action) on major issues and programme activities of the United Nations Secretariat and the regional commissions relating to social development and welfare and specific social groups (E/CN.5/1995/2 and Add.1); the Commission resolution on "Follow-up to the International Year of the Family" (E/CN.5/1995/L.11), adopted by the Commission at its thirty-fourth session; the report of the United Nations Interregional Meeting of National Coordinators/Focal Points for the International Year of the Family; materials emanating from the International Conference on Families: "Families and global international conferences of the 1990s"; a note on the Voluntary Fund for the International Year of the Family; calendar of events related to the International Year of the Family; and an International Directory of IYF Research Activities. In discussing the agenda item, the participants reviewed the preparatory and observance phases of the Year, reported on its major achievements, assessed its results and described follow-up measures, within the areas of their direct substantive concern. The following entities of the United Nations system, which were not represented at the Meeting, submitted written inputs on the item: the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), the Centre for Human Rights, the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) and the International Labour Organization (ILO). The Non-Governmental Organizations Committee on the Family in New York also submitted a written statement.

19. The representative of the Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat stated that the Department had been very active in publicizing the Year. The Department and its network of 67 United Nations information centres and services had undertaken a range of activities that included wide distribution of Year-related materials and organization of press conferences, media encounters, lecture programmes, special seminars and

briefings for a variety of audiences. Special activities had also been organized by United Nations information centres and United Nations information services to launch the Year and to celebrate the International Day of Families. Materials produced and distributed by the Department of Public Information included an information kit on the Year, a backgrounder on the International Day of Families, a fact sheet on family issues for use in connection with the World Summit for Social Development, films entitled "Honey, I'm Home", dealing with single-parent families, and "Portraits of Age", on the impact of ageing on the family, and television public service announcements for the Year.

20. ECE reported on a multinational project on fertility and family surveys/studies (FFS). It had been initiated against the backdrop of population decline in the ECE region and sought to shed light on trends in, and interactions among, union formation and dissolution, reproduction, work, education and values. Currently, the project covered 18 countries. It was planned to update the project data until 1999 and to launch a parallel set of activities focusing on countries in transition that were not covered by the project.

21. ESCAP reported that the preparation, observance and follow-up of the Year had been based on its resolution 47/13, 2/ adopted by the Commission at its forty-seventh session in 1991. A number of activities had been carried out, including the organization of the Asia and Pacific Preparatory Meeting for the International Year of the Family held in 1993, which adopted the Beijing Declaration on the Family in Asia and the Pacific. Various documents emanating from the Meeting had been published, including "The role of the family in development: four studies of the situation in Asia and the Pacific" and "National policies and programmes for the family in Asia and the Pacific". The Manila Declaration on the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region (A/CONF.166/PC/20/Add.13, annex I), adopted by the Asia and Pacific Ministerial Conference in Preparation for the World Summit for Social Development in October 1994 and endorsed by the Commission in its resolution 51/3, had stressed the crucial role of the family and the urgent need to strengthen it. A major outcome of the Year was an increasing emphasis on the family as the basic social unit for socio-economic development and the need for all Governments to devise policies specifically in support of the attainment of national development objectives regarding the family.

22. The activities carried out by ESCWA during the preparation for the Year had included the organization of the United Nations Africa and Western Asia Preparatory Meeting for the Year, held in Tunis in 1993 in cooperation with the Year secretariat, and the preparation of papers on "Family planning, health and family well-being in the Arab countries" and on the "Role of the informal sector, particularly the family, in providing support and services to the elderly". The activities for the observance of the Year had included the organization of the Expert Group Meeting on "The Arab family in a changing society: a new concept of partnership", held in December 1994 in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. The assessment of the Year's observance and its impact had included the recognition of the family as an economic and social institution, the identification of radical societal transformations and their effects on the family, the enhanced involvement of women in education and

employment opportunities, and the raising of awareness on family-related issues, in particular with regard to social changes and the empowerment of women.

23. The representative of the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch of the United Nations Office at Vienna noted that the family as the fundamental unit of society and primary agent of socialization had played a significant role in crime and delinquency prevention. It was stressed that efforts to strengthen the family and to prevent crime were closely related. This fact had been emphasized at the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, held in Cairo from 29 April to 9 May 1995. Topics discussed at the Congress included the problems of street children and their exploitation for criminal purposes, violence against women and children and domestic violence. These and other issues related to the family would be considered by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its forthcoming fourth session. The Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch would continue to emphasis family-related crime prevention strategies and the strengthening of the role of the family within the criminal justice system.

24. The Centre for Human Rights reported that the importance of family issues had been duly recognized in the extra-conventional human rights activities mandated by the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Human Rights, including, in particular, the work of working groups, such as the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, special rapporteurs, such as the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, and the Special Rapporteur on promoting the realization of the right to adequate housing, and the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture. The Centre had also published a fact sheet on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women 3/ in 1994 and another on the right to adequate housing. A Manual on Human Rights and Social Work (HR/P/PT/1), targeting vocational training schools and the social workers' profession, had been published, which included references to the protection of the family and its most vulnerable members. The Centre had also directed the preparation of the manual on provisions relating to the family contained within United Nations conventions and other instruments.

25. The representative of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) informed the Meeting that it had associated itself with the objectives of the Year. Habitat's support to countries in improving the living conditions of people in terms of housing, urban development, infrastructure and basic services could only be successful if families directly benefited from such assistance. Poor physical conditions of shelter and the living environment severely limited the ability of families to play their central role in society and in sustainable development. Habitat therefore fully subscribed to the notion that families were agents of social development who must be strengthened through capacity-building, protection and human rights extension. Through capacity building among poor families at the neighbourhood level, a far larger percentage of the poor could be reached than through public sector-operated projects. However, to achieve sustained results, extensive orientation of families was needed on resilience, self-reliance and self-help. A central feature of the Centre's policies and programmes was the so-called enabling strategy, requiring the competent and sustained contribution of families and

their organizations, in partnership with non-governmental organizations, the private sector, local government and national agencies. Within the framework of the Year, the Centre had enlarged its programmes on community development in poor urban and rural settlements which increased the technical and organizational knowledge of families needed to carry out home improvements, and shelter construction, as well as maintenance of water supply, sanitation, waste management and drainage. These programmes were running successfully in many countries of Latin America, Africa and Asia. The Centre had also included a subprogramme on "Building local communities" in the work programme for the biennium 1996-1997, and had allocated approximately 15 per cent of its regular and 20 per cent of its extrabudgetary resources to it. The Year had also provided specific conceptual inputs to the Women in Human Settlements Programme in Habitat, which focused on strengthening the gender-related approach to issues involving the provision of shelter, infrastructure and services, and the overcoming of the barriers of gender to equal access to land, to land tenure and to credit and finance. Continuing practices of excluding women from land ownership, land inheritance and formal sources of credit, which severely limited the capacity of families to build and maintain their homes, would be the central topics of Habitat's preparation for the Fourth World Conference on Women. The World Habitat Day in 1994 had been organized under the theme of "Shelter and the family", highlighting the efforts of families at the level of communities to improve their shelter and living conditions. A main event for the Day took place in Dakar, Senegal, with the participation of ministries responsible for housing and social welfare from several African countries. A Declaration of Dakar had been adopted in which Governments pledged to assist families in their efforts to establish adequate housing conditions. A statement on regional priorities had been prepared as a contribution to the preparations for the Habitat II conference, focusing on families in situations of civil war, refugee families, displaced persons, and the destruction of human settlements. In assessing the Year, it was noted that poverty, social disintegration, crime, destitution and homelessness could not be significantly reduced through the Year, as its success in these areas depended largely on external factors.

26. The representative of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) stated that the Year had offered it an opportunity to revitalize its human concern for the 23 million refugees and the 25 million internally displaced persons world wide. UNHCR had set out specific objectives for observance of the Year as well as a plan of action to be achieved. A community-based approach had been used, involving refugees, field offices and various headquarters divisions and sections in a family-focused approach to planning and implementing programmes. Field offices in 103 countries had developed programmes for the Year. The main areas of concentration had been self-help activities for families, including income generation, skills training and community participation, in order to achieve support for families and for those without family supports, particularly the most vulnerable, such as the elderly, disabled persons, mentally ill persons, unaccompanied children and women heading families without male support. Special attention had been given to vulnerable groups. Research and seminars on various aspects of refugee life had provided a deeper insight into the refugee situation and sensitized people to the needs of refugees and family related problems. UNHCR had worked closely with non-governmental organizations, governmental agencies and, above all, with the refugees themselves, in its efforts to observe the Year. An intersectoral

approach had been adopted, involving every division and section at headquarters and in the field. Self-evaluation of the mainstreaming of the activities had been undertaken to ensure continuation beyond 1994. A detailed report on UNHCR's observance of the Year and Inventory of Plans beyond 1994 had been published. UNHCR was also represented at various regional meetings, including those held at Tunis, Beijing, Valletta, Addis Ababa, Cartagena, Vienna and Bratislava. It had also prepared a paper on "Families in exile: reflections from the experience of UNHCR", for publication as part of the Year's Occasional Papers Series.

27. The representative of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) reported that the Year had provided an excellent opportunity for UNICEF to identify ways to provide stronger support to the efforts of families in the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child 4/ and in achieving the mid-decade and the year 2000 goals of the World Summit for Children. UNICEF had supported the preparatory activities for the Year in association with Governments, non-governmental organizations and United Nations organizations at the global, regional and national levels. Through its participation in the Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Meetings on the Year, it had contributed to the preparatory process, drawing attention to the rights and needs of children and women within the family context. Several country and regional offices of UNICEF had been actively involved as members of national Year coordinating committees and had collaborated with regional bodies in the organization of events, studies and seminars. Cooperation with Governments and non-governmental organizations had resulted in reviews of changing family structures and their implications for the survival, protection and development of children and women, as well as in the building of alliances for strengthening families as the building blocks of communities. During 1993, UNICEF had undertaken a review of both its policies and its programmes of cooperation, with respect to their relevance and ability to respond to the changing trends in family structures as well as to the mobilization of families in support of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the goals of the World Summit for Children. This had also included workplace issues, so as to make the organization more family-friendly. At the global level, it had been actively involved in several inter-agency projects related to documentation, publications, films and information materials for public awareness and advocacy. At the World NGO Forum Launching the International Year of the Family, the Deputy Executive Director for Programmes had called for a movement in support of families in terms of highlighting specific elements of gender equality, a greater role of fathers, new and effective ways of supporting families in changing economic and social conditions, and development of comprehensive family support policies and programmes, as well as recognition by international organizations and Governments of families as important partners and the first line of defence and protection against the many obstacles to human well-being. During the Year, UNICEF had focused on promotion of gender equality in the family through reduction of disparities throughout the life cycle of men and women, boys and girls; creation of violence-free families; involvement of men and shared parental responsibilities in families; and strengthening of provisions for child care in families. These efforts had included collaborative seminars and research for advocacy, documentation and programme development on these themes during the Year at global, regional and country levels. A staff seminar on "Gender equality in the family: role of men", held in May 1995, had examined

various themes such as socialization, gender roles, family violence, role of social institutions, and attitudes and values within the life cycle of women and men in families. Recommendations from the seminar would provide direction for follow-up in advocacy and policies beyond the Year. In summary, IYF had provided an impetus for the review and assessment of UNICEF programmes within a family perspective and the identification of critical areas for creating family environments founded on equality and equity for the survival, development and protection of children and women.

28. The representative of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) stated that it had undertaken a number of activities in conjunction with the Year. It had played a key role as one of the two members of the secretariat of the International Conference on Population and Development. The Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development 5/ had reaffirmed that while various forms of the family existed in different social, cultural, legal and political systems, the family was the basic unit of society and as such was entitled to receive comprehensive protection and support. 6/ Principle 9 of the Programme of Action 7/ had stated that the family was the basic unit of society and as such should be strengthened; that it was entitled to receive comprehensive protection and support; that in different cultural, political and social systems, various forms of the family existed; and that marriage must be entered into with the free consent of the intending spouses, and that husband and wife should be equal partners. Chapter V of the Programme of Action on the family, its roles, composition and structure called on Governments to develop policies and laws that better supported the family, contributed to its stability and took into account its plurality of forms, particularly the growing number of single-parent households. 8/ It urged countries and the international community to give greater attention to, and manifest greater solidarity with, poor families and families that had been victimized by war, drought, famine, natural disasters and racial and ethnic discrimination or violence. 9/ Governments, in cooperation with employers, were encouraged to provide and promote means to facilitate compatibility between labour force participation and parental responsibilities, especially for single-parent households with young children. 10/ The Programme of Action paid focused attention to gender equality and equity in the family and the need for greater male involvement in sharing family responsibilities, particularly within the area of reproductive health and family planning. It underscored the necessity of equality for girl children within the family.

29. In its programming, UNFPA had worked closely, in promoting family concerns, with other United Nations organizations and non-governmental organizations for example, WHO in the area of family planning, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in that of population education, and the Population Council in the area of research and information dissemination. At the interregional, regional and country levels, UNFPA had funded various activities, including publications, research, seminars and meetings in support of the Year. As an event leading up to the Year, UNFPA had supported a conference on "Changing families in changing societies" (Brussels, 1993), organized by the International Council of Women. Together with UNICEF and the Ford Foundation, UNFPA had supported a monograph entitled Families in Focus; New Perspectives on Mothers, Fathers, and Children. 11/ The study concerned, conducted by the Population Council, showed a substantial increase in

female-headed households in both developing and developed countries. In addition to analysing statistical data, the book presented some policy alternatives for strengthening family units. UNFPA had supported several regional and country activities. In the Asia region, for example, UNFPA had supported a meeting organized by the National IYF Committee of the Islamic Republic of Iran as well as an international conference on "The role of women and the family on human development". In the South Pacific subregion, UNFPA had participated in a seminar that examined, inter alia, the impact of religion and culture on the Pacific family, as a part of a subregional Year conference. In India, UNFPA had been a part of the national committee on the Year and had provided support for advertisements on family issues which were broadcasted nationally. In Sri Lanka, it had assisted in organizing a family-life education week, including a national workshop on family-life education, regional workshops on family life, and a youth camp where young people's problems and their families were discussed. In Viet Nam, it had supported a survey on the impact of socio-economic changes on the family. In the Latin American and Caribbean region, UNFPA had funded several meetings on the Year. In Costa Rica, it had collaborated with the Ministry of Education in organizing a "Youth Conference on Family". In collaboration with other sponsors, UNFPA had supported a publication on The Honduran Family, Its Legal and Institutional Framework, while in Paraguay, it had participated in the project "Family, population and development". In Ecuador, it had sponsored a seminar on "The family: the axis for social action" and a meeting on "The family and human development, the case of Guayaquil". In Nicaragua, it had assisted the Ministry of Education's campaign which produced street signs and posters carrying the message "The Family, a Union that gives Strength". In Morocco, it had funded a family survey that would collect detailed statistical data on family-specific issues. In its future programming, UNFPA would pursue activities in three core areas: reproductive health and family planning; population and development policy; and advocacy. It would assist countries in achieving the three quantitative goals of the International Conference on Population and Development: reduction of infant, child and maternal mortality; universal primary education; and universal access to quality reproductive health services, including family planning. All of these goals addressed issues essential to promoting the well-being of families.

30. The representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) emphasized its Programme's strong commitment to families and the objectives of the Year. Its main focus was on facilitating an enabling policy environment for a sustainable human development that would integrate social and economic concerns. UNDP's priority concerns for the future were the eradication of poverty; the identification of a legal framework for the advancement of women; the decentralization of decision-making at the governmental level; and the protection and regeneration of the environment. UNDP's commitment to gender equity and equality involved the implementation of concrete programmes for the advancement of women and the introduction of gender-mainstreaming, meaning the requirement of systematically taking into account the inequalities between men and women, and the differences and similarities between female and male responsibilities, knowledge, attitudes, needs, priorities, access to resources and participation in decision-making in every stage of development. UNDP's 1995 Human Development Report 12/ had introduced a gender equality-sensitive indicator to measure male-female inequality in terms of access to opportunities

in selected areas and had proposed new methodologies to measure and value the unpaid contributions made by women and men to human development through household work and community activities. Three initiatives in the area of collaboration with other organizations were highlighted: the Global Family Project, co-funded by UNDP, the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), UNICEF and UNFPA, picturing multigenerational families in 12 countries around the world; a programme to strengthen the capacity to reduce maternal deaths and disabilities in cooperation with WHO, international financial institutions, non-governmental organizations and research centres; and a unified programme for preventing the transmission of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and providing support to people with HIV/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) and reducing negative impacts on the individual, the family, the community and society.

31. The representative of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) stated that UNDCP had consistently incorporated a family component within its drug control strategy as an important element, given that the family was both a social institution affected by drugs and a resource with which to fight drug production and trafficking and to reduce demand. Families were implicated in drug control issues in many ways. They were often involved in drug cultivation, processing and trafficking. Drug abuse had a serious impact on family stability and health, and could lead to child neglect and abuse. Strengthening rural families through ad hoc measures in drug-producing areas had been one of the key factors for the success of alternative development programmes. The family played an important role at all levels of intervention for drug demand reduction. Without family and community support, prevention messages would not be effective. UNDCP was currently advising member States on the need for a more comprehensive approach, covering promoting prevention programmes that included the community and the family. ILO, UNDCP and WHO had carried out model programmes for the prevention of drug and alcohol abuse among workers and their families. The family was important for treatment and rehabilitation services. Initiatives of UNDCP for the Year included publication of a special issue on family and drug abuse of the Bulletin on Narcotic Drugs; collaboration with the International Olympic Committee on promotion of sports as a way to prevent substance abuse among youth in developing countries; establishment of a model programme for workers and their families in drug abuse prevention, in collaboration with ILO and WHO; and promotion of the role of women in the family with regard to drug abuse prevention and implementation of special programmes, in collaboration with UNDP, the World Bank and WHO. As a follow-up to the Year, UNDCP would continue to encourage the consideration and involvement of families in drug abuse demand reduction projects.

32. The representative of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) reported that it had undertaken initiatives in support of the Year in all of its programme areas and fields of operation and had significantly increased its capacity to effectively address the needs of families in the population that it served. In 1994, the Agency had established a Family Health Division and had developed a comprehensive maternal health strategy to strengthen its family health programme. It had also conducted a survey of attitudes towards family planning among women in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Moreover, UNRWA had implemented a number of programmes addressing child health care; the family as an important social institution and

the fundamental unit of the economy; the needs of refugee families; women's issues, including training courses on subjects ranging from family health and domestic violence to sexually transmitted diseases; home rehabilitation care for disabled persons; and the provision of loans to women initiating micro-enterprises. The education programme had focused on raising awareness of the importance of the family through a variety of curricular and extracurricular activities highlighting family-related issues. This included a writing competition on family-related issues in schools; distribution of posters, bulletins on the family and a calendar on family health; presentation of a video on "AIDS and the Family"; and an exhibition of posters and signs on the Year. In promotion of the Year, UNRWA had devoted both 1994 issues of its magazine Palestine Refugees Today to the Year, using the Year logo and publishing articles as well as a special photo essay on the family.

33. Within the context of the preparations for and observance of the Year, UNICRI had incorporated several family-related projects within its work programme. Priority issues in this regard included domestic violence and child abuse within the family. It had completed a project on an International Bibliography on Violence in the Family, which provided an overview of the issues and sources of information related to violence in the family. Through research, technical cooperation, training, library services and publications, UNICRI had concentrated also on youth problems, drug abuse, social development and crime, community-based crime prevention and control, and migration, with a focus on the family.

34. ILO had focused on the interrelationship between the Organization's areas of work and the objectives of the Year. These included multiple links between sustainable development and the well-being of the family, as well as the connection among families, enterprises and working conditions. A major thrust of ILO's action during the Year had been the encouragement of efforts towards the achievement of long-term sustainable growth and employment creation, involving, inter alia, a review of the employment and poverty-reducing impact of development strategies and the development of new employment planning policies. A number of activities had been carried out to promote the adoption of measures to enhance productivity and the quality of employment in the formal and informal urban and rural areas, as well as to improve the protection of migrant workers and members of their families. Another common concern was strengthening families in their support of their most vulnerable members, including the elderly, physically and mentally disabled persons, and those recovering from addiction. ILO had also continued its efforts to enhance gender equality in the workforce as well as in the family. Pilot projects had been carried out in rural and informal sectors, and women's organizations had been promoted and supported. Special emphasis had been placed on measures to overcome the constraints on equality at work that derived from family responsibilities, and on the promotion of a more equal sharing of responsibilities at home. These included the promotion of national and enterprise policies to enable men and women workers with family responsibilities to be employed without discrimination and without conflict between their employment and family responsibilities. Standards had been adopted on part-time work and a number of measures had been promoted, such as parental leave; leave to care for sick family members; innovative working patterns, such as job-sharing; and the development of child-care and family services and facilities.

35. The representative of UNESCO stated that UNESCO and its member States had complex educational responsibilities towards children in the home, in school and in the wider society. While school remained the primary channel of education, the support of the child's family was essential, as it was within families that basic personal qualities were established, civic values sown, and both communication and social skills given an early start. The challenge was therefore to improve the educational system and, at the same time, generate within societies networks and lifelong educational programmes for reaching parents and families. The International Year of the Family had provided inspiration and real assistance to this educational project, which was first formulated in 1990 by the World Conference on Education for All: Meeting Basic Learning Needs. In its activities for the Year, UNESCO had worked with its member States to sponsor research and to raise awareness about the family as a major agent of education. In 1994, UNESCO had brought practical educational programmes to disadvantaged families and children in over 20 countries throughout the world. In addition, a strengthening of family dimensions of major programmes proposed by the General Conference of UNESCO had been accomplished, for example, in basic education and literacy programmes, early childhood education programmes, women's programmes, and the inter-agency programme on environment, population education and information. Addressing the family implications of those programmes and their implementation within the field of education and culture, within the context of the follow-up of the United Nations conferences convened in recent years, would constitute the major contribution of UNESCO to the Year follow-up.

36. The representative of WHO reported that the Year had had an important impact on the policies and programmes of WHO. Despite the fact that the WHO Division of Family Health had existed for nearly 30 years, and notwithstanding the Organization's support to a number of research projects on family health-related issues, the Year and the Organization's preparation for the Year in collaboration with other agencies had served as a catalyst for action by, and involvement of, many WHO technical programmes. It had also resulted in discussion of the Year and family health issues in WHO's governing bodies and establishment of family health, along with women's health and reproductive health, as one of four priority areas for the Organization. The WHO Executive Board and the World Health Assembly had adopted resolutions that, inter alia, addressed the issues of family capacity-building, the protection of vulnerable families and the cost effectiveness of family-oriented/centred interventions for health promotion, protection and care. The priority accorded to family, reproductive and women's health had been reflected in a shift in regular budget resources at all levels of the Organization, including additional staffing for follow-up activities. WHO technical programmes, either individually or in collaboration, had implemented specific activities for the Year, including technical reviews and popular publications, and the linking of the Year to activities for World AIDS Day. The Year and the inter-agency process had facilitated WHO's involvement in joint activities, such as the task force on support for capacity-building and empowering families, and work with UNDCP and ILO for action related to substance abuse in the family and in the workplace. Intrafamilial violence had been identified as a public health problem by WHO, and an interdivisional task force had been created for programme development. A full-time post had been created to address the issues related to women, children and families in difficult circumstances, such as refugees and displaced persons.

The Year had also stimulated interest among member States in the development of a technical programme in family health, training in policy and programme development and interventions for health promotion and disease prevention involving the transfer of knowledge and skills to the family. A network of WHO-designated collaborating centres in family health was being developed. The first such centre in Beerscheva, Israel, would develop and conduct an international, multidisciplinary training course on family health for teams from several countries in 1996. The terms of reference of other WHO collaborating centres were being expanded to include research and development work on family health.

37. The Chairperson of the Non-Governmental Organizations Committee on the Family in Vienna expressed deep appreciation for the possibilities presented for collaborative work with the United Nations system for the success of the Year. Particular reference was made to the achievements of the World NGO Forum Launching the Year. In summarizing the Committee's activities, four phases were identified. The pre-proclamation phase, from 1985 to 1989, had seen the establishment of the Committee as an open platform by some 25 international non-governmental organizations, organizing key international seminars on family issues and initiating world-wide information-sharing. During the preparation phase, from 1989 to 1993, starting with official proclamation of the Year, the Committee had begun its promotional efforts to stimulate awareness, involvement and action and effectively link the international level with grass-roots realities. During this period, the membership of the Committee had been constantly growing, comprising 70 international and national non-governmental organizations with a network of 1,500 grass-roots family-related organizations in 120 countries. Support from a number of Governments had also been obtained. The Committee had further developed its information tools, which included a "Check-list of activities for an effective IYF", "Guiding principles on the family", as a framework for a possible declaration on family rights and responsibilities, "National coordinating bodies for IYF", "Putting IYF into your events", and 19 issues of the Families International newsletters. The phase had culminated in the successful organization of the World NGO Forum. The observance phase in 1994 had been characterized by the implementation of a large number of projects documented in "Highlights of IYF Action", which reported 486 projects in 95 countries by 285 organizations. The Committee's strong commitment to sustaining the momentum achieved for a family focus through follow-up action was underlined. Examples of specific follow-up tools and actions included a "Summary report of the World NGO Forum", promoting a declaration on family rights and responsibilities, and an international seminar on "Focus on families: action and issues beyond IYF", planned for 6 and 7 November 1995. It was pointed out, in the course of assessing the Year, that the Year had radically improved the awareness and quality of discussion about the precarious situation, value and untapped potentials of families, and had led to many concrete family-friendly measures in legislation, policy and programmes at all levels. An approach based on the support of the family's own strengths and resources had been identified, and a trend among non-governmental organizations was emerging to make the family a permanent element of their programmes and projects. It had also led to useful international non-governmental organization networking. The continuation of this networking as well as the collaboration with the United Nations system would be a crucial element in sustaining efforts on behalf of families, especially at the grass-

roots level, and required the continuation of a strong family focal point within the United Nations.

38. The representative of the Non-Governmental Organizations Committee on the Family in New York informed the Meeting that the Committee had circulated a statement to the Third Committee of the General Assembly supporting the proclamation of an International Year of the Family, suggesting its main concerns and topics. The Committee had held monthly meetings in cooperation with other appropriate non-governmental organization committees, inviting their specific concerns from a family perspective in such issues as the advancement of women, drug abuse, the situation of refugees, mental health, disability, shelter, cultural change and development programmes at local and national levels. Special programmes had been undertaken on such themes as "The family as the first community"; "Families and strategies of development"; "Fathers in contemporary life"; "Family dynamics in the fast-changing world"; and "Beyond the IYF". The Committee had also provided inputs for the inter-agency meetings on the Year, and the World Summit for Children, the International Conference on Population and Development, the World Summit for Social Development and the Fourth World Conference on Women. The Committee had sponsored an NGO Caucus on the family at the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit for Social Development. Members of the Committee had also issued statements to the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole for the Preparation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission for Social Development, and the Third Committee of the General Assembly. The future programme of the Committee would cover the results of the World Summit for Social Development, the role of male family members, changing intergenerational relationships and reconciling family obligations with professional life and voluntary work, and the resulting impact on the human and cultural development of family members. Non-governmental organizations would experience deep regret if the impetus of IYF was to come to a halt and would commit themselves to continued work on the family. There was a danger that the interest in the family might be swallowed up by that generated by other emerging topics. Non-governmental organizations, particularly at the grass-roots level, still expected more information and guidance to be tendered within the context of their particular local and cultural needs.

39. The Non-Governmental Organization Group on the Family of the NGO (UNESCO) Standing Committee in Paris reaffirmed its active involvement in family issues. It had participated in and contributed to the World Summit for Social Development. It had also prepared a communication on the theme "Women and the family", as an input to the Fourth World Conference on Women. While recognizing the special role of women in the family, the Group stressed the need for an improvement of the status of women in society and the role of the family in promoting gender equality and equity. On the theme "Family and tolerance", the Group had implemented a number of activities in conjunction with the observance of the United Nations Year for Tolerance and the continuation of the International Year of the Family, including a joint exhibition with UNESCO on the International Day of Families on the theme "Tolerance begins in the Family". It was noted that the Year had revealed a broad consensus on family resources and responsibilities. The Group reaffirmed the call for a strong follow-up to

the Year, including continued collaboration between the United Nations and non-governmental organizations.

40. Under this agenda item, the Meeting also considered the family dimensions of the forthcoming Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace, and the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II). Participants shared information on the preparatory process for the Fourth World Conference on Women and stressed the importance of family aspects being reflected in the platform for action to be adopted by the Conference, building thereby upon the consensus reached at the International Conference on Population and Development and the World Summit for Social Development. The representative of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements briefed the Meeting on the preparations for Habitat II. He noted that it was being seen as the last in the series of international conferences. It was expected that the central concerns of human development and human security in a "people-centred" development strategy would be brought "home", in other words, into connection with the reality of living conditions, by the Conference. So far, the preparatory process for the Conference had identified two main themes: (a) adequate shelter for all, and (b) sustainable human settlements in an urbanizing world, both of which had a wide scope of reference to the notion of families promoted by the Year. Both provided points of reference for a large number of family-oriented programmes formulated during the Year and therefore lent themselves easily to becoming a new context for their continuation and specific orientation. The draft statement of principles and commitments of the expected global plan of action of the Conference had identified the family as one of its main principles. Basing itself on the language adopted by the Cairo International Conference on Population and Development, this draft principle on the family had proclaimed the important role of families as beneficiaries as well as actors and stakeholders in programmes under the two main themes of Habitat II.

C. Assessment of the work of the ad hoc inter-agency mechanism for the International Year of the Family

41. Discussion on this agenda item was facilitated by a background paper on the assessment of the work of the ad hoc inter-agency mechanism on the International Year of the Family. Participants highlighted the fact that the inter-agency mechanism had performed a crucial function both in terms of refining and sustaining a jointly elaborated substantive direction for the Year and in terms of the numerous interlinked and complex substantive issues. This, in turn, had been extremely helpful in achieving coherence of agendas and approaches regarding a wide spectrum of complex issues and in dispelling some initial concerns and misconceptions regarding the Year, particularly with regard to its impact on the rights of individuals. Consequently, the mechanism had contributed significantly to legitimizing the Year's objectives within the wider context of human rights, social progress and sustainable development by conveying and demonstrating their endorsement by numerous entities of the system. The Inter-Agency Statement on the Year, in June 1993, formulated by the Meetings and jointly issued by the concerned organizations and agencies of the United Nations system, was regarded as a particularly illustrative example.

42. The Meeting agreed that the Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Meetings on the Year had provided a very effective platform for the entities of the United Nations system through which to coordinate their efforts, and initiate and implement numerous promotional and substantive measures, as well as reinforce collaboration with the non-governmental sector. A number of those entities had considerably reoriented their family-related programmes towards including more emphasis on different aspects of the functioning of the basic unit of society. A main benefit was that the Meetings had ensured a continuous and vitally important flow of information and exchange among all concerned agencies and that those agencies had been kept fully abreast of policy and programme initiatives and developments. The Meetings had been instrumental in achieving a significant and increased level of participation by the 34 entities of the United Nations system in the observance of the Year.

43. Participants highlighted the key and effective role played by the Year secretariat in the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat in mobilizing and facilitating action for the Year at all levels. They expressed deep appreciation of its efficient work in achieving inter-agency cooperation and involvement for the Year, including the manner in which the Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Meetings on the Year had been organized, conducted and followed up.

44. Participants recalled that the Meetings had produced a spectrum of action-oriented recommendations on the substantive and programmatic aspects of the Year, which had facilitated the most effective involvement of the United Nations system in the observance of the Year as well as coordination and harmonization of action. Furthermore, numerous concrete initiatives and joint projects had been undertaken and successfully implemented. In addition to the joint Statement on the Year, these had included a long-term substantive inter-agency project on support for capacity-building and empowering families, which would pool together the technical expertise and experience of the various agencies; substantive papers on conceptualization, typologies, structures and functions of families, on refugee families and on family health; a statistical chart on families; an inventory of action for the Year by the United Nations system; a manual on provisions relating to the family contained within United Nations conventions and other instruments; joint observances of the International Day of Families; and a series of promotional activities, such as an information kit, a photo contest, photo exhibitions, publications, a documentary film and video, and public service television announcements. A significant feature of the Meetings had been the consistent effort to reinforce the substantive linkages between the Year and other major events and conferences in the social policy areas. The Meetings had also served as a forum for partnership-building with the non-governmental organization community. The invitation to them to attend the Meetings had proved to confer an invaluable benefit.

45. The participants emphasized that the concerned entities of the system should continue to give adequate focus to family issues and reflect it in their programme budgets, as appropriate. In this regard, it was recommended that organizations and agencies should appoint permanent focal points on family issues, within their respective mandates on family issues and as part of the follow-up to the Year that would be mandated by the General Assembly, at its fiftieth session.

46. The participants regarded it as essential that coordination and collaboration on family issues within the United Nations system should continue, particularly within the context of the implementation of the international declarations and plans of action of the major global conferences of the 1990s as they applied to family issues, including, in particular, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development 13/ and Agenda 21; 14/ the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, 15/ adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights; the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, 16/ the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development 17/ and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development; 18/ the platform for action, to be adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women; and the Istanbul global plan of action, to be adopted by the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II). Having considered various modalities to ensure such an integrated inter-agency approach to family issues, they concluded that, based on the experience of the Year, the most effective mechanism would be the holding, on a biennial basis, of ad hoc inter-agency meetings on family issues. In addition to coordination of family issues within the context of global plans, programmes and platforms of action, the new periodic mechanism would coordinate the implementation of the mandates on the follow-up to the Year that would emanate from the fiftieth session of the General Assembly; facilitate exchange of information and collaboration; harmonize approaches and understanding of relevant concepts; and implement the joint project on support for capacity-building and empowering families. The Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat should serve as the substantive secretariat for the meetings.

47. Drawing on the positive experience of the International Year of the Family, the Meeting proposed that non-governmental organizations and institutions devoted to family issues, family-related research and family policy concerns should be provided with the widest possible opportunities to participate as partners in the family-related work of the United Nations system. Participants agreed that concerted efforts should be made to foster collaborative and supportive relationships with non-governmental organizations. It was also considered essential that collaborative arrangements should be extended to cover the broadest range of non-governmental organizations and institutions from all regions of the world and those at national and local levels.

D. Strategies and priorities for the follow-up to the International Year of the Family and consideration of relevant draft documents

48. Background documentation to facilitate discussion on this agenda item included a note by the Secretary-General to the thirty-fourth session of the Commission for Social Development on the current status of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 47/237 on the International Year of the Family (E/CN.5/1995/5); an excerpt on the family from the report of the Secretary-General to the thirty-fourth session of the Commission (under the agenda item monitoring of international plans and programmes of action) on major issues and programme activities of the United Nations Secretariat and the regional commissions relating to social development and welfare and specific social

groups (E/CN.5/1995/2 and Add.1); the resolution of the Commission on "Follow-up to the International Year of the Family" (E/CN.5/1995/L.11), adopted by the Commission at its thirty-fourth session; the report of the United Nations Interregional Meeting of National Coordinators/Focal Points for the International Year of the Family; excerpts from statements at the International Conference on Families on "Follow-up to the International Year of the Family"; the statements of international non-governmental organizations on the Year, submitted to the thirty-fourth session of the Commission; and the Salt Lake City Declaration on Family-friendly Communities, adopted by the World Conference of Cities, Local Government and Private Sector Partners, held in Salt Lake City, Utah, United States of America.

49. In introducing this agenda item, the Coordinator briefed the Meeting on the directions taken on the matters for consideration provided by the intergovernmental meetings. He referred, in particular, to the resolution on "Follow-up to the International Year of the Family", adopted by the Commission for Social Development at its thirty-fourth session, in which the Commission had requested the Secretary-General to prepare a concise draft reflecting the outcome of the relevant United Nations conferences and national experiences of the International Year of the Family. He informed the Meeting that, accordingly, the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly, at its fiftieth session, on the observance of the Year would contain concise proposals on the follow-up to the Year.

50. Participants reiterated the need for adequate follow-up to the Year and considered that it should be undertaken within the context of the implementation of the recommendations of the major global conferences of the 1990s. It was important to maintain the focus of activities at the national level, supported by relevant international activities. Particular emphasis should be given to community-level activities and technical assistance for them. It was noted that, while consensus on numerous elements regarding families had evolved as a result of the Year, sensitivity regarding socio-economic and cultural diversities was essential. Organizations and agencies of the United Nations system had a significant role to play in building upon the Year's outcome and in promoting a family-centred approach to development. They should provide guidance and technical assistance in addressing the challenges and opportunities presented by the emerging consensus on family issues.

51. Participants emphasized that the experience and achievements of the Year should be synthesized and made available to all concerned with family issues. This might be achieved through a publication that would consolidate the important lessons of the Year, and stimulate action in addressing challenges and opportunities regarding family issues.

52. Participants highlighted the importance of promoting the principle of family participation in elaborating programmes for families; fostering research on various family issues; building further the partnerships and networks that had emerged during the Year, including research and academic institutions; using advanced communication technologies; addressing the needs of public information; and mobilizing resources. It was also pointed out that the outcome of the Year should be brought to the attention of United Nations resident coordinators and

the mechanism established for coordinated implementation of global declarations, plans, programmes and platforms for action.

E. Other matters

53. It was proposed that the first ad hoc inter-agency meeting on family issues should be held in 1996. The following provisional agenda for the meeting was suggested:

1. Opening of the meeting.

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

3. Role of the United Nations system organizations and agencies and inter-agency coordination for the follow-up to the International Year of the Family and the implementation of family-related recommendations of the major global conferences of the 1990s.

4. Inter-agency projects benefiting families.

5. Partnership with non-governmental organizations on family issues.

6. Other matters.

7. Adoption of the report.

54. It was further proposed that non-governmental organizations should be represented at the meeting, in an observer capacity, by the Chairpersons of the Non-Governmental Organizations Committees on the Family in Vienna, New York and Paris.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-ninth Session, Plenary Meetings, 35th to 38th meetings (A/49/PV.35-38).

2/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1991, Supplement No. 14 (E/1991/35), chap. IV.

3/ General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex.

4/ General Assembly resolution 44/25, annex.

5/ Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994 (A/CONF.171/13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

6/ Ibid., para. 5.1.

7/ Ibid., chap. II.

8/ Ibid., para. 5.2 (a).

9/ Ibid., para. 5.12.

10/ Ibid., para. 5.3.

11/ Authors of the monograph were Judith Bruce, Cynthia B. Lloyd, Ann Leonard, and others (New York, Population Council, 1995).

12/ New York, Oxford University Press, 1995.

13/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

14/ Ibid., annex II.

15/ Report of the World Conference on Human Rights, Vienna, 14-25 June 1993 (A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III).

16/ Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994 (A/CONF.171/13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

17/ Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995 (A/CONF.166/9), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

18/ Ibid., annex II.

Annex I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

United Nations entities and programmes

Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development	
Coordinator for the International Year of the Family	Henryk J. Sokalski
IYF secretariat	George Puthuppally Elisabeth Sjöberg Eugene Rolfe Elisabeth Bayer Daniele Marano Elisabeth Ruzicka-Dempsey
Department of Public Information	Janos Tisovszky
United Nations Office at Vienna	
Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch	Kurt Neudek
United Nations Centre for Human Settlements	Mathias Hundsalz
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	Marie Lobo
United Nations Children's Fund	Sreelakshmi Gururaja
United Nations Development Fund for Women	Benjamin Gurman
United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East	Jennifer Waller
United Nations Population Fund	Catherine S. Pierce
United Nations Development Programme	Benjamin Gurman
United Nations International Drug Control Programme	Lee-Nah Hsu Stefano Berterame

Specialized agencies and related organizations

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	John Bennett
World Health Organization	Mark A. Belsey

Observers

Non-Governmental Organizations Committee on the Family in Vienna	Dennis Callagy
Non-Governmental Organizations Committee on the Family in New York	Hilde Rosenmayr

Annex II

AGENDA

1. Opening of the Meeting.

2. Adoption of the agenda and the organization of work.

3. Review of implementation of inter-agency projects for the International Year of the Family.

4. Assessment of the International Year of the Family from the perspective of the United Nations system organizations and agencies as well as collaborating non-governmental organizations.

5. Assessment of the work of the ad hoc inter-agency mechanism for the International Year of the Family.

6. Strategies and priorities for the follow-up to the International Year of the Family and consideration of relevant draft documents.

7. Other matters.

8. Adoption of the report.